Installation of short wave transmitters at Bangalore and Dharwad Radio Stations in Karnataka

2427. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether "short wave" transmitters have been installed at Bangalore and Dharwad Radio Stations in Karnataka;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the Kannada programmes of "Akashvani" was not accessible to lakhs of Kannadiagas settled outside Karnataka; and

(d) when will the "short wave" transmitters be installed at Bangalore and Dharwad Radio Stations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) There are six Short Wave transmitters at Bangalore for external Service for South East Asia. There are no Short Wave transmitters either at Bangalore or Dharwad for listeners in the State, since installation of short wave transmitter at either Bangalore or Dharwad will not provide additional coverage to the State.

(c) Some representations have been received regarding non-availability of local Kannada programmes to listeners outside Karnataka. It is, however, not feasible to make available local Kannada programmes to listeners all over the country.

(d) There is no proposal to install short wave transmitters at AIR, Bangalore or AIR, Dharwad.

Improvement of DD/AIR services in NER

2428. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 767 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 2000 and state:

(a) the details of action plan formulated to implement the recommendation of Core Group of Secretaries for improvement of

I&B Network in the NER, amount sanctioned and implementation status of the same;

(b) the details of the special package formulated for improvement of AIR and Doordarshan services in the region;

(c) the steps taken to man I&B installations in NER for effective operation;

(d) commissioning status of North East Special Channel recently inaugurated in the region; and

(e) the status of Height Extension of DD Tower, Dibrugarh?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) 10% budget is being earmarked and spent on development of network in the North East Region (NER). In addition, Rs. 4.26 crore has also been released from the non-lapsable pool for programme production for 24 hour NE Satellite channel. The action plan to improve AIR and Doordarshan services in the region and extend coverage to remote areas includes setting up of AIR and DD transmitters and Earth stations etc. at different locations. This will also result in increased broadcasting/telecasting of programmes, of relevance to the region in local languages/ dialects.

(c) Staff has been provided at various AIR/Doordarshan installations in NER, by way of redeployment, and all Radio Stations and TV transmitters in the region are giving full transmission.

(d) North East Channel (24 hrs.) had been commissioned on 27.12.2000.

(e) The scheme for extension of height of TV tower at Dibrugarh has been sanctioned.

Grant to Rajasthan

†2429. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.